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SECONDARY SCHOOL CIRCULAR NO. 2. APRIL, 1918.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

BUREAU OF EDUCATION,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORGANIZATION OF HIGH SCHOOLS IN WAR TIME.

The charts herewith indicate how the school authorities of Grand Rapids, Mich., presented to the public and those charged with financing the schools the needs of the educational institutions of the city, particularly the high school, during and after the war. In Grand Rapids, as in many other cities, there has been since the outbreak of the war a disposition on the part of those who do not understand the importance of schools in war time to curtail the usual expenditures for education. The charts prepared by the Grand Rapids school authorities proved so definite and effective that it seems desirable to make them known to other cities.

Among the plans suggested for war-time school organization is that of dividing the school year into four quarters of 12 weeks each. This was advocated in the circular issued by the Commissioner of Education on May 22, 1917, and has been tried in Mason City, Iowa, and other places. It will be noted that the Grand Rapids charts give special attention to organization of schools on the four-quarter plan.

For the use of these charts the Bureau of Education is indebted to Mr. Jesse B. Davis, principal of the Central High School of Grand Rapids and president of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The charts were shown at Atlantic City at the meeting of the secondary school principals February 25.

Additional copies of this circular may be obtained without charge from the Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C.

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF
NATIONAL DEFENCE --- *Robert J. Aley*
Pres. University of Maine and N.E.A. Chairman

The WAR *and* SECONDARY SCHOOLS

PRINCIPLES

I Maintain school systems as fully as possible
II Encourage students to continue learning
III Change courses and methods of instruction to fit needs of students, present and future
IV Emphasize thrift and avoid waste

RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Adjust school year to needs of community
2 KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN THE ENTIRE YEAR TO BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS
3 Fix sessions in agricultural sections to permit boys and girls to do farm work
4 Employ teachers to supervise farm and home production
5 Co-operate on part time basis with industries
6 Hold boys from premature enlistment

COMPARATIVE EFFICIENCY of SCHOOL SYSTEMS

CITY	Hours in school day	Hours in school week	Days in school year	Hours in school year	More hrs than G.R.
GRAND RAPIDS	5	25	194	970	
PARIS	6	30	220	1320	350
LONDON	5½	27½	210	1155	185
BERLIN	6	32	225	1350	380

ENGLISH EXPERIENCES 1914-1916

1. School used for war purposes
2. School budgets reduced
3. Children employed in war work
4. Only ⅕ left in school
5. Child wages increase 5 times
6. Child crime almost doubles

REFORMS 1917-1918

1. National system of education
2. School age raised to 18 years
3. Teacher's salaries raised 30%
4. More scientific and technical training
5. Greater attention to training of girls
6. Higher education possible to poor

GERMAN EFFICIENCY

1. Schools open all year
2. Training for adults & children
3. Men instructors
4. Teachers well paid & pensioned
5. Instruction for definite life work

ENEMY WISDOM

"WHAT YOU WOULD PUT INTO THE LIFE OF A NATION, PUT INTO ITS PUBLIC SCHOOLS" German Proverb

"THE SCHOOL IS THE ALL-PERVADING FORCE OF GERMANY'S INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, POLITICAL, AND MILITARY ASPIRATIONS" Sigmund Mendelsohn

AMERICAN INEFFICIENCY

1. Time wasted in long vacations
2. Invested capital wasted
3. Low compulsory school age
4. Child labor exploitation
5. 5,000,000 illiterates over 10 yrs
6. Lack of physical & health training
7. Low average teaching wage
8. Majority of teachers women
9. Trade & Technical training neglected
10. Lack of National aims
11. Lack of National system

ELIMINATE FALSE IDEALS OF GERMANY AND ADD TO ITS EFFICIENCY THE IDEALS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

The FOUR-QUARTER SCHOOL PLAN
JAN
FEB
MAR
FIRST QUARTER
JAN.1 - MAR.23
12 WEEKS
VACATION MAR 23-APR.1
JULY
AUG
SEPT
THIRD QUARTER
JULY 1-SEPT.23
12 WEEKS
VACATION SEPT.23-29
APR
MAY
JUNE
SECOND QUARTER
APR.1-JUNE 22
12 WEEKS
VACATION JUNE 23-29
OCT
NOV
DEC
FOURTH QUARTER
OCT.1-DEC.21
12 WEEKS
VACATION DEC.21-28
EVILS OF OLD PLAN
1-Idleness and thriftlessness
2-Bad habits of living and thinking
3-Lack of discipline and self-control
4-Wrong ideas of time and pleasure
5-Moral and physical decline
6-Wasteful neglect of opportunity
7-Idle investment of $3,000,000.00
BENEFITS OF NEW PLAN
1-40% more instruction of 18 yrs of age
2-Efficient use of capital invested in School system of the country
3-A speeding up of preparedness program as a war measure
4-Stronger teachers held in schools
5-Per diem per capita cost reduced
6-Adjustment of vacations to meet economic needs of the students
UPON THE EFFICIENCY OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS BUILT THE PROGRESS OF THE NATION

The SCHOOL SYSTEM on the FOUR-QUARTER PLAN

JUNIOR COLLEGE

GRADES 13-14
AGES 17-18
TIME 2 YRS

TECHNICAL TRAINING

- I PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION { 1 MEDICAL 3 ENGINEERING 2 LAW 4 LITERARY
- II BUSINESS SCHOOL { 1 COMMERCE 5 FINANCE 2 ACCOUNTING 6 BUSINESS EFFICIENCY
- III ART SCHOOL { 1 PROFESSIONAL 2 TRADE
- IV TRADE SCHOOL { 1 METAL 3 BUILDING 2 WOOD 4 PRINTING

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

GRADES 10-12
AGES 14-16
TIME 2½ YRS

PREPARATORY TRAINING

- I ACADEMIC
- II COMMERCIAL
- III TRADE { WOOD METAL PRINTING DRAWING
- IV SPECIAL TRAINING FOR GIRLS

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

GRADES 7-9
AGES 12-13½
TIME 2½ YRS

PRE-VOCATIONAL TRAINING

- I ACADEMIC
- II COMMERCIAL
- III PRE-INDUSTRIAL
- IV HOME ECONOMIC

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

GRADES KG-6
AGES 5-11
TIME 6 YRS

FOUNDATION TRAINING

- I REVISED CURRICULUM
- II DRILL IN FUNDAMENTALS
- III DIRECTED PLAY
- IV ELEMENTARY HANDWORK

PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

WE MUST WIN THE WAR FOR OUR CHILDRENS' SAKE—ON THEM RESTS THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY
THE NATION'S GREATEST ASSET IS ITS YOUNG LIFE

MODERN WARFARE MATHEMATICS

VICTORIOUS ARMY & NAVY − [EFFICIENT TRAINING / SCIENTIFIC INDUSTRY] = [ECONOMIC DEFEAT]

VICTORIOUS ARMY & NAVY + [EFFICIENT EDUCATION / SCIENTIFIC INDUSTRY] = [VICTORIOUS DEMOCRACY]

IMMEDIATE DEMANDS

1 Use school property more efficiently
2 Open schools all year to all citizens
3 Develop trade and technical courses
4 Promote physical and military training
5 Conform to National ideals in education
6 Make our schools foremost agency of preparedness

THIS IS NOT TIME TO CURTAIL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PATRIOTISM DEMANDS THAT TAXES & FUNDS BE RAISED FOR LOCAL EDUCATION AS WELL AS FOR OTHER WAR PROJECTS.

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